



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 27, 2007

***GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES NEW CLASS OF CHASE EARLY EDUCATION
EMERGENT LEADERS***

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano has announced the selection of 25 early childhood professionals for the fourth class of Chase Emergent Leaders, a successful professional development program for those working in early childhood care and development.

“The Chase Early Education Emergent Leaders project is a proven and effective way to help grow leaders within the early care and education field,” Governor Napolitano said. “Emergent Leaders is helping to increase Arizona’s capacity to provide high-quality care and education to our youngest children so that they start school ready to succeed.”

The Chase Emergent Leaders program helps enhance management and leadership skills, increases leadership and professional development opportunities, and provides participants with a forum for collaboration and networking. The class of 2008 is a diverse group of professionals who work in programs ranging from Head Start to private child care, public schools, and faith-based child care. While previous classes have been geared towards classroom teachers, this year’s class is made up of directors and assistant directors of child care, preschool and other early childhood programs.

The program is offered through a partnership between the Governor’s Office and Southwest Human Development, the state’s largest provider of early childhood programs. The program is funded by Chase Bank with additional support from the Arizona Early Education Funds.

To date, more than 90 early childhood professionals from across Arizona have participated in the program, 95 percent of whom credit the Chase Emergent Leaders program with providing continuing personal and professional benefits that include improved self confidence, better performance in their careers, the opportunity to apply their newly learned advocacy skills, the motivation to return to school for advanced coursework, and the opportunity for professional networking.

For more information on the Chase Emergent Leaders or a full list of the 2008 participants, visit www.gocyf.az.gov/sr.

For more information about the Office of the Governor, please visit www.azgovernor.gov.